The Lemon Grove REVIEW

SPORTS WEEKLY EAST COUNTY

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East County Sockettes part of winning combo

by Joe Naiman

West Hills High graduate and current Grossmont College student Heather Espinola was one of this year's Sockettes – the dance team of the San Diego Sockers.

Although the Sockers were unsuccessful in their bid for an 11th indoor soccer championship, Espinola saw the team reach the Continental Indoor Soccer League (CISL) semifinal round before the Sockers' elimination at the feet of the Houston Hotshots Oct. 16.

Remarked Espinola, "It's been great cheering for a team that wins all the time."

Espinola's position on the Sockettes was spurred by her love of dance. If her dance experience prior to enrollment at West Hills High School didn't give her an advantage in making the cheerleading squad, it certainly gave her the incentive to try out.

Espinola tried out for the Wolf Pack cheerleading squad her sophomore year. She spent one year on the JV squad and two years on the varsity squad.

Some former West Hills cheerleaders were with the 1995 Sockettes, which are sponsored by Advanced Web Offset. The Vista company also sponsored the dance team for the San Diego Wildcards, who played briefly in the Continental Basketball Association in the fall of 1995.

Espinola was urged to try out for the Wildcards dance team and made the squad.

Although Espinola was successful in making the Wildcards dance team, the team was not successful in drawing fans, nor did it enjoy much success on the court.

The Wildcrds stint in the Sports Arena lasted from their Nov. 17 opener to its home game Dec. 30. On Jan. 5, the day the team was supposed to host Shreveport, team owner Doug Logan pulled the plug on the Wildcards.

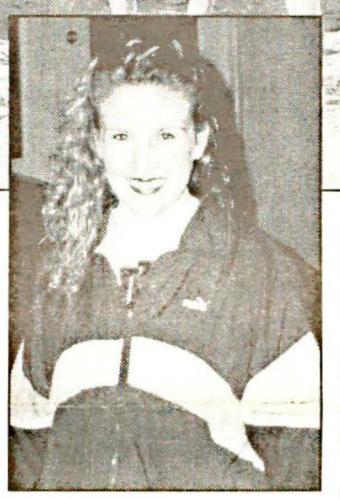
"We were really sad when we heard they decided not to play that night," said Espinola. "We were all ready to go, so we kept practicing."

The practice paid off for Espinola when the 1996 Sockettes were selected. Although her incumbency with the Wildcards dance team was no guarantee of being selected for the Sockettes, it provided her with experience.

During the Sockers' home season, which began in June and ended Oct. 12, the Sockettes practiced for three hours on Mondays and Thursdays in addition to practice prior to the home games.

"We're together all the time," she said. When the Sockettes weren't practicing, they often hung out together during the week. When the games were over, they socialized following their Sports Arena duties.

Espinola carpooled to the games and practices with Heather Sittloh, another West Hills graduate, who still lives in Santee.



Fans of the San Diego Sockers often run into the Sockettes, the dance/cheer team that includes East County natives Heather Espinola (inset and far right) and Heather Sittloh (second from left). The Sockers' season is over, but the beat goes on.

"East Countians stick together," Espinola added.

Espinola noted that the cheer squad interacted well with the Sockers players and coaches. "They've appreciated us so much," she said. "When a team doesn't appreciate you it hurts your feelings."

Although the Sockers' season is over, Espinola will be reunited with many former Wolf Pack cheerleaders at the West Hills homecoming Nov. 1. "We're all going to try to get back together," she said.

Espinola enjoys living in East County. "It's home. I like it. I like San Diego a lot. I wouldn't think of moving anywhere else other than San Diego. It's family oriented."

When she isn't involved with the Sockettes, Espinola attends Grossmont College, where she is studying cardiovascular technology.

Both of her parents work in hospitals – her father is an x-ray technician at Sharp Hospital and her mother is a transcriptionist in radiology at Mission Bay Memorial Hospital.

Espinola will complete the two-year program at Grossmont before deciding whether to transfer to a four-year school or to get a job.

School will be a major factor in Espinola's decision whether or not to try out for the Sockettes in 1997.

This factor would be intensified in the event that rumors of the CISL folding and the Sockers moving into the winter National Professional Soccer League are accurate. Whatever her decision, she will look back on her 1996 experience cheerfully.

"This has been a great experience. I wouldn't change anything at all. Cheering for indoor soccer is a great."

LaChappa's recovery reminder that the game is not everything

by Greg Eichelberger

Most sports afficionados probably have the attitude about athletic competition that, no matter at what level, the "game" is not everything, it's the *only* thing, to quote the late Green Bay Packers' coach Vince Lombardi.

However, every now and then, there creeps into that "game" a little bit of something called "life." An example of this occurred last April, when, due to a still unknown condition, Lakeside's Matt LaChappa collapsed while warming up in the bullpen of Rancho Cucamonga stadium in preparation to enter a minor league baseball game.

Two cardiac arrests later, the young graduate from El Capitan High School was clinging tenaciously to life, and, suddenly, the "game" wasn't important anymore.

His father, Clifford, the tribal leader of the Barona Indians, was, as any parent would be in this situation, distraught and sobbing on a field that, a few minutes before, held his son's hopes and dreams of a big league future. Matt spent a few weeks in San Antonia Community Hospital (in Rancho Cucamonga), before being transferred Scripps Memorial in La Jolla.

A quirk of fate, a twist of life's screw, and what once was a sure road to the Major Leagues has turned into a dead end. But, a full season after that tragedy, Matt has come home to Lakeside, the town where he grew up, where he first smelled the outfield grass, felt the thrill of a base hit and learned to throw the breaking curve and fast balls that almost led him to the Promised Land.

A star of the brightest magnitude for the Vaqueros, Matt was signed as a second-round draft choice by the Padres, and began playing on their Class A Peoria (Arizona) team in 1993. Later, he toiled in Illinois and, finally, for the RC Quakes last year, where he established a record of 11 - 7.

Although the game's most certainly gone from Matt's life, he's still here, and, for that reason, his family and all of us, rejoice in the knowledge that there are greater tasks for him to perform.

Many family members and former coaches Steve Vickery from El Cap and the Quakes' Glenn Bennett, to name a few, have all commented on how far the stricken hurler has come since he was first hospitalized.

"It was a miraculous recovery," said his father. "We always had faith that things would work out, but having him back here is too wonderful for words."

Miracles come and go, and for many, getting a raise at work or a successful sale may qualify, but that cheapens the word. Matt LaChappa was felled by a massive heart attack, and then suffered another one on the way to the hospital.

His step back from the brink was nothing short of miraculous. Six months in a hospital bed have caused the once-robust left-handed twirler to shrink, but only in body weight. "He's never given up," said a close friend, "and God has never given up on him."

Unable to communicate verbally at the present time, due to a trachea tube in his throat, young LaChappa is, nonetheless, able to make his loved ones understand what he needs. "I can tell that he's nice and happy, and alive. God has blessed him," said Cliff. "And us."

Matt has regained the use of his limbs, although, at times, it continues to be difficult for him. Full recovery may be years and many prayers from fruition, but he's getting better every day.

According to the family, he's gaining weight, his fevers are subsiding, and his weaken cardiac muscle is healing as fast as humanly possible. "God has watched over us," said Clifford. "He's given Matt back to us. Now we're going to have to go through some intense physical therapy and the slow learning process to teach him to walk again."

With his progress of taking a few steps with a walker, apparently he'll be completely healed and ready to carry on with the life he has been given, once

Send your sports or team news to the *Sports Weekly!*

No goal this time

AYSO Region 258 Div. 2 girls match at Palm Junior High School on Oct. 12 finds Enserto defender (left) blocking shot by No Fear attacker (right).

Photo by Marv Rosen

Community Notes

Poison Center offers Halloween tips

The staff at the San Diego Regional Poison Center offers this advice for parents to help them keep Halloween safe:

• Insist the child bring back the treat bag for examination before he or she eats any items. Carefully examine all treats to detect signs of tampering.

• Discard any treats not packaged in the original wrapper.

• Do not rely solely on having candies x-rayed at a hospital because x-rays do not detect poisons, glass or plastics.

• Parents with children of different ages should sort the candies to make sure that younger kids don't get hold of small hard candies, peanuts or other objects that may get lodged in a youngster's throat.

• This year, kick the candy habit. Offer pencils, pads, crayons, stickers or tiny finger puppets.

• Costumes need not be expensive. Scare up a costume from a local thrift store or create an outfit from items at home.

• Look for costumes, wigs and masks which are labeled flame resistant. This designation does not mean the fabric won't catch fire, only that it will resist burning.

• Choose costumes with light or bright colors which can be seen by drivers. Reflective tape also can be added to costumes or treat bags so that they are highly visible.

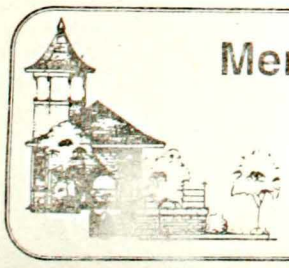
• Costumes should be short enough to prevent the child from tripping and flat shoes should be worn.

If children experience any symptoms following ingestion of candy, parents should call 543-6000.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

10/04/96 through 10/10/96

8400 blk. Golden Ave. Difficulty breathing.
Massachusetts Ave./Hwy 94. Vehicle accident.
7800 blk. Golden Ave. Difficulty breathing.
1700 blk. El Dora St. Non breather.
3200 blk. Olive St. Difficulty breathing.
2300 blk. Bonita St. Fall.
Hwy 94 WB/College Ave. Freeway/accident/rescue.
2300 blk. Peppermint Ln. Residential structure fire.
8300 blk. Lincoln St. Possible stroke.
8300 blk. Broadway. Difficulty breathing.
Palm St./Washington St. Traffic accident.
Hwy 94 EB/Broadway. Freeway/accident/rescue.
3100 blk. Florine Dr. Fall.
3600 blk. Hilltop Dr. Rubbish fire.
2700 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.
3100 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Unconscious.
8000 blk. Lemon Grove Way. Chest pains.
1500 blk. Dupont Dr. Flooding.
1700 blk. Englewood Dr. Unresponsive.
3200 blk. Olive St. Vehicle fire.
2600 blk. Nida Pl. Possible stroke.
2600 blk. Glebe Rd. Chest pains.



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The Lemon Grove Review

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All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: **25,100**
Incorporated: **1977**
Area: **3.75 sq. mi.**
Median income: **$34,399**

Mayor: **Mary Teresa Sessom**
Council: **Thomas Clabby**
Craig Lake
Dwight Shelley
Jeff Jandura
City Manager: **Doug Yount**
Planning Director: **Jim Butler**
City Attorney: **Gloria McLean**
City Clerk: **Christine Taub**
Sheriff's Capt.: **Yolanda Collins**
Fire Chief: **Dale Chamberlain**
Congressional district:
52nd - Duncan Hunter
State Senate district:
40th - Steve Peace
State Assembly district:
77th - Steve Baldwin
Supervisorial district:
2nd - Dianne Jacob

1993 taxable sales: **$1.47 million**
Libraries: **1**
Post offices: **1**
Parks **4**
Recreation centers **1**

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In the Service

Navy Seaman Recruit **James R. Bayes**, son of Forrest G. and Sheila D. Bayes of Lemon Grove, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Bayes completed a variety of training which included classroom study, practical hands-on instruction and an emphasis on physical fitness. In particular, Bayes learned naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival and a variety of safety skills required for working around ships and aircraft.

He is a 1993 graduate of Chaparral High School.

Read all about it in *the Review!*
Subscribe and receive both Thursday's and Tuesday's Sports papers

Public Notices

CITY OF LEMON GROVE
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Lemon Grove, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California, up to the hour of **10:00 a.m.** on the **25th** day of **October 1996** for the purchase of one (1)

1500 GALLON PER MINUTE,
CLASS "A" TRIPLE
COMBINATION
4 DOOR ENCLOSED TILT
CAB FIRE APPARATUS

CONTRACT #96-08

Copies of the detailed specifications containing all information, bid proposal and contract may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk, Lemon Grove City Hall, 3232 Main Street, California 91945.

The bids received will be publicly opened and read at the City Offices at the time stated above. A specific agreement and purchase order contract will be approved and awarded by the City Council.

The Lemon Grove City council reserves the right to accept any or all bid proposals, or to waive any irregularities or information in the bid or bidding process.

Proposals shall be subject to acceptance within a period of thirty(30) days after the date of bid opening. The successful bidder shall, within ten (10) days after award enter into the written contract supplied by the City. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

Date: 10/10/96

Douglas A. Yount
City Manager

The City of Lemon Grove complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you require reasonable accommodations for this bid opening, contact the City Clerk's Office at (619) 464-6934 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled bid opening.

Lemon Grove Review
October 15 & 22, 1996

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 96-0420-1563 Loan No. 00365541 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 8/20/90. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 11/5/96 at 10:00 AM, LONESTAR MORTGAGEE SERVICES, L.L.C., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 8/28/90, as Instrument No 90 470592, in book , page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, State of California. Executed by ALBERTO L. MOLINAR, AN UNMARRIED MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 220 WEST BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (NOTE: CASHIER'S CHECK(S) MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO LONESTAR MORTGAGEE SERVICES, L.L.C. all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: LOT 17 OF BELLA VISTA ESTATES, IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ACCORDING TO MAP THEREOF NO 6968, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, JUNE 22, 1971 APN #576-080-17-00 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be 2147 BERRY STREET LEMON GROVE, CA 92045. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $86,776.60. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Date: October 09, 1996 LONESTAR MORTGAGEE SERVICES, L.L.C., as Trustee Michael Gonzalez, Authorized Signature Address: P.O. Box 515388, Dallas, Texas 75251-5388 FOR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (916)387-7728 LONESTAR MORTGAGEE SERVICES, L.L.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ASAP227614 10/15, 10/22, 10/29

Save money! Place your legal ad in the Review

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 93-53404 Title Order No. 949742-3 Reference No. 7178882298 APN No. 479-160-32 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/14/86. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On October 29, 1996, at 10:00 AM, **Professional Foreclosure Corporation** as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 10/30/86 as Document No. 86-492627 Book - - - Page - - - of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, California, executed by: CRAIG KLEIN, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor, INVESTORS FIRST MORTGAGE CO., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 220 WEST, BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA., all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: The Southerly 90 Feet of Lot 6 of Templeton Park, in the City of Lemon Grove, County of San Diego, State of California, According to Map Thereof No. 2346, Filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Diego County on August 29, 1946. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 3107 CITRUS STREET, LEMON GROVE, CA 92045. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: $137,981.65 Estimated. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. **Professional Foreclosure Corporation** as Trustee, 5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 1050, Santa Ana, CA 92707. Telephone Number: (714) 432-9000, By: Tammy Fallo, Trustee Sale Officer, Date: 09/27/96 NPP0019314 PUB: 10/08/96, 10/15/96, 10/22/96

Sports Beat
with Greg Eichelberger

If we had the technology at Forum Publications, I would suggest that my editor put a black border around this particular column. Why? Because I'm in mourning for my St. Louis Cardinal baseball team, that's why. How can an ordinary fan stand a team that, in three of their last five post-season appearances, has blown three-games-to-one advantages? That's equivalent to a presidential candidate having a 10-point lead in the polls the day before the election, only to lose – *three times*! The years 1968, 1985 and 1996 will forever be burned into my memory as the seasons of the "folding Cards." At least my adopted Padres have never relinquished such a lead, even if they've never had one. So, as far as I'm concerned, *there is no World Series this year*!! Bitter? Oh, a tad ...

Speaking of the Pads, I saw a recent article ("What A Year!") in another publication, and I can only say is having their writer write a story on the Padres is like having Louis Farrakhan speak at your son's bar mitzvah. She wasn't even there, fer cryin' out loud!

Okay, I'm much better, now. By the by, many kind words were spoken about our piece on the team last week, and I'm sure more are to follow. Oh, and here's a message to John Rollo – first you have to *be* and ironman, to write about ironmen. Kapeesh? ...

The curtain has come up on another prep football week, and, as it does, it reveals that the El Cap Vaqueros knocked the kilts off of the Helix Highlanders, 36-21, thanks to the rushing of Brian Ames (128 yards, 13 carries, 2 TDs) and the passing of Kevin McCadem (7 for 10, 228 yards, 2 TDs). Helix had two 100-plus yard rushers, Corey Ransom (189 yards), and Andre McKinzie (151), but it somehow wasn't enough to defeat the Vaqs, who won their fourth in a row after dropping their first two contests. Their quarterback is good," said Helix coach Jim Arnaiz of McCadem. "He really makes their offense go."

Dwight Morris' Mount Miguel Matadors throttled the Valhalla Vikings, 28-6, by using a swarming defense to stop the Norsemen time and time again. Darrell Barclay (13 tackles, 1 sack, 1 interception), Justin Carpenter (2 int.); Gregory Thomas (2 sacks); Mike Walls (2 int.) and Dustin Gregory (12 tackles) led the defensive unit in one of Miguel's most dominating performances in years, while RB Reggie Williams rushed for 148 yards and two touchdowns. Other East County games of interest saw El Cajon Valley stop West Hills and the team's, supposedly, "vaunted" passing attack, 34-21; Grossmont nip Santana, 14-9; and Granite Hills over winless defending Division 2A champs, Monte Vista, 20-14 ...

On the professional level, the Chargers play the Raiders on Monday Night Football, so beware. And, did you know that the husband of Valinda Sutton (vehement Lakeside anti-unification activist) is an official at Chargers practices? He is, and if you're patient, Joe Naiman and I will tell you more about him in an upcoming issue ...

I understand that, for the first time in 47 years, there will be open-cockpit championship auto racing at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. And guess what? Who cares?! Put it in Cajon Speedway, Barona Speedway or a track in Del Mar, it still spells the same things, loud, smelly and boring. It's not a sport, already! ...

And speaking of what is and what isn't a sport, my rules have always been that if you can't use your hands, your momentum is powered by something other than your own propulsion, or, you don't have a reason to get real bloodied up, it's not a sport.

It breaks down thusly: baseball, you catch the ball, it's a sport; golf, you only use your hands to put the ball on the tee, not a sport. Using this theory, soccer is also not a sport, because of the hands rule, plus the fact that it's the fans who usually get killed, not the players. Let's revisit Guatemala City last week, shall we? Now, if I, of average intelligence, see 10,000 people pushing, jamming and crushing themselves to get into a small stadium tunnel entrance, and many of them dropping like flies, I immediately head the other way ...

What I do not do, is go home, get the wife, kids, aunts, uncles and neighbors, and join them! What is it with these maniacal soccer fans? This is the the only game that has actually caused wars to break out, and has killed more people than auto racing. And I haven't even touched on those brain-dead English soccer hooligans that slaughter innocent fans of other teams on a regular basis ...

That being granted, however, I still think youth soccer and AYSO programs are great because they teach kids the basic fundamentals of fair play and teamwork. It's just not a sport, though ...

There's still that golf tournament on Oct. 23, sitting out there, big as life, staring at you. It's at the Bonita Country Club, but it does kick off the East County Toy Drive, so get involved. Call the Volunteers of America at 463-9275 for more information ...

There will be an event at Kennedy Park on Oct. 27, combining two things that should never go together – celebrating Halloween and running. But, if you're between the fifth and the eighth grades, live within the boundaries of the Cajon Valley Union School District and have a need to run for about a mile, then this event is for you. Just call 1-800-450-7382 for details, pay your $4, and run to your heart's content ...

Which brings up another question, why would you pay to run?! I know I've said this before, but if I'm being attacked by a lion in Africa (or at the Wild Animal Park), I run. If, on the other hand, I happen to have $4 (and, as a journalist, that's pretty rare), I think I'll invest it in a Rally's Big Buford Combo. After all, I've seen people smile when they eat a hamburger, but I've never seen anyone smile while they're running. I think I've made my point ...

Now make yours and call me at 390-7103 with news from the world of recreation. Honest, folks, I can only do so many things by myself, and this column ain't one of them. In the meantime,

Riding a motocross bike in open fields in Spring Valley just a memory

by Kenneth Dunn and Marv Rosen

To Kenneth Dunn, being able to ride his motocross bike in the open fields of Spring Valley and other nearby places is just a fond memory.

Dunn said he attended his first moto cross race at Carlsbad in 1971. "After that I was hooked," he said.

A year later, he said he obtained his first bike – a Yamaha 80 with a chopped pressed steel frame. "Six months of learning the basics on the Yamaha and I would graduate to a Yamaha AT 2 MX," he added.

In reminiscing about his early days Spring Valley, he commented that it was a lot different place in his teenage years.

"Being able to push my bike right across the street and ride until 1975 was something extra special," he said.

He added that even after the vacant farm land next door was converted to a 60-unit housing tract in 1975, he could still drive his Dodge truck out to Bonita and Paradise Hills and ride.

He noted that now those riding areas are long gone. "I remember around 1985 when old teenage acquaintances were still riding on a track out on Rancho San Diego somewhere near the Cuyamaca College Campus." In 1976, Southern California had a population of only 10 million, which is a far cry from the 20 million of today-including Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

He remarked that he still enjoy visiting relatives in San Dimas, driving up the back way through Temecula and Elsinore and seeing all that open land out there.

He commented that the Elsinore Grand Prix is scheduled to happen again in November 1996. The 1971 running of that event, immortalized in the classic Motorcycling documentary, drew 100,000 spectators on any Sunday. The United States Grand Prix at Carlsbad in 1975 and "76 drew nearly 50,000 spectators.

Dunn said he attended every United States Grand Prix at Carlsbad through 1971 to 1979 with exception 1973 when he was employed in a family restaurant in La Mesa and had to work that weekend. "I had to have some way to support my dirt biking," he added.

Today, struggling to make it as a novelist and freelance writer, he thought back on those days with fondness, noting that it was a simpler, less complicated time and place, with the promise of tomorrow and the expectations of youth.

In his story he sent to the paper, he talked about all the people involved with his racing and the many bikes he had owned.

"I still remember Joe Santich, Bob Murray, Lynn Brown, Kevin Kiness, Mike Assof, Bob Wilson, Shane Harris, Rob Helder, Kevin Kiness, Tim Marsh and Dean Stafford. All had common dreams and uncommon lives because of a sport called motocross. Many times I have wished I could turn back the clock and live those days again.

"I was vaguely aware in 1971 that Husqvarna motorcycles headquarter was over on Palm Avenue in La Mesa. My sister's friend Howard told me Husky's are the best.

It was something I would agree with six years later, after reading the corporate philosophy of Husqvarna in Popular Cycling magazine following an interview with disgruntled Husky factory rider. Torlfief Hanson of Sweden was not happy that Husky refused to pay him through Swiss bank accounts so he could cheat on his taxes.

"About the time when the Husqvarna reed valve 74-250 Mag came out, I was racing my the first bike – a Suzuki."

He noted that there were enough big name racers around La Mesa and Spring Valley, including AMA Experts Joe Santich, Bob Murray, Jim Martin and Mike McGowen (1975 national amateur champ and thereafter a Husqvarna support-rider.)

There was also Gary Johnson, who rode a local, shop-sponsored Kawasaki in 1972, and Rob Norgaard a CZ support rider, who finished 7th overall in the support class in 1971 for the Urans AMA series, he added.

He commented that it seemed like everyone he associated with back then was tied into dirt bikes in some way or other. His cousin, who is three years older, raced in Los Angeles and his brother-in-law and his two brothers both rode Bultacos.

"I remember older friends like Lynn Brown who was the number one 250 desert racer in 1975 as well as Craig Walker and Bob Dyikeman who I would ride with in Bonita after I bought my Honda '75.

"I never set the world on fire racing. I got a 5th overall at a night race at South Bay Speed Way and missed a trophy and transfer points by one over all position in some fashion on my stone-stock TM 125 Suzuki."

He said he still doesn't know what the fall-out was from his qualifying times at Carlsbad in August 1975 at the Can AM National Amateur championship qualifier in which he rode a on a near-stock two-year-old Honda.

He said, "I rode in the support class that day and have the feeling my moto was full of second-string experts who didn't want to go up against the drivers in the main event.

"I was 6th in the first moto, but the officials never posted my results from that moto. I think I got ninth overall that day. Beyond that I know nothing of my results."

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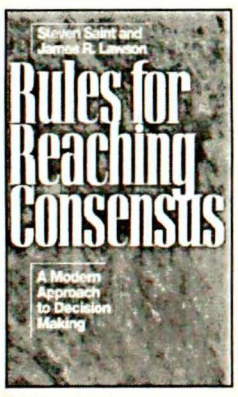

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